Commissions Act, 1998 has enabled the States to constitute their State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Rules regarding State Electricity Regulatory Commissions are framed by respective State Governments *under Section 57 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.*

Alternative Sources of Energy by Domestic Sector

1575. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a joint effort with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for harnessing and utilizing alternative sources of energy by domestic sector and sparing huge amount of energy for other purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) There is a Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) to enable close coordination amongst the electricity related Departments/Ministries and the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is represented on this Committee. One of the tasks of the Committee is to take a coordinated view on generation of electricity from all sources.

Status of agreement signed between U.P. Government and Duncans North Hydro Power Company

†1576. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1892 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th August, 2001 and state:

(a) the position of agreement with regard to Shrinagar Power project reached with Duncans North Hydro Power Company; and

(b) the provision of penalizing the said company for not completing the work after expiry of time limit as per the agreement, if so, whether any action has been taken against the said company and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) With the formation of the

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

new State of Uttaranchal, the Shrinagar Hydro Electric Project (330 MW) being implemented by M/s. Duncans North Hydro Power Company Ltd., will be located in State of Uttaranchal. The project is yet to achieve financial closure and commence construction activities. During recent meetings convened in the Ministry of Power with representatives of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of Uttaranchal as well as the promoters etc., it was informed that necessary changes in the power purchase agreement due to reorganization of the two States would be finalised shortly.

Counter Guarantee for Mangalore Power Project

1577. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to s ›te:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to provide Counter-guarantee in respect of the Mangalore Power Project without the ESCROW clause;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other such power projects being implemented in the country on the basis of the Counter-guarantee provided by the Central Government with and without ESCROW Clause;

(d) whether Government of Karnataka has proposed alternative security mechanism to remove the statements created by the Centre's insistence on ESCROW; and

(e) if so, what are the details and the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deepak Parekh Committee set up by the Government of Karnataka (GOK) has advised the State Government against allocation of any escrow cover to Independent Power Producers. Keeping in view recommendations of the above committee, GOK have expressed inability to provide escrow cover to the Mangalore Power Project. The request of the State Government to issue counter-guarantee without escrow has not been agreed to and they have been requested to suggest alternate payment security mechanism, if any.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.